

NIH AGENCY REPORT – MARCH 2011

A summary of NIH resources and relevant funded discoveries

National Institute for General Medical Sciences:

NIH resource information for Pharm.D. research funding, training and career development opportunities. <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/Training/PharmD/>

Search for useful drugs in cave-dwelling creatures

Brian Bachmann, a biosynthetic chemist at Vanderbilt University, studies cave-dwelling creatures and the molecules they make. He is searching for new or overlooked compounds that could make useful drugs.

<http://publications.nigms.nih.gov/findings/jan11/drugsdeepdown.asp>

New Approach to Fighting Staph Infections

Researchers have identified a small molecule that can inhibit methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a growing public health problem. The discovery may eventually open the door to a new class of antibiotics to combat MRSA. *Clumps of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus bacteria.* Image by Janice Haney Carr, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/february2011/02282011staph.htm>

Antidepressant Effective For Hot Flashes

Women taking a low dose of the antidepressant escitalopram had fewer and less severe hot flashes than those taking a placebo, a new clinical trial reports.

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/january2011/01312011hotflashes.htm>

Genetically modified fungus Effective for malaria parasite control

Spraying malaria-transmitting mosquitoes with a genetically modified fungus can kill the malaria parasite without harming the mosquito, potentially reducing malaria transmission to humans, according to a new study published in the journal *Science*. Funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, the study was led by Raymond J. St. Leger, Ph.D., of the University of Maryland, College Park.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2011/niaid-25.htm>